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SECRET SPACE PLAN IS FEARED BY RYAN

WASHINGTON, March 14 (AP) — Representative William F. Ryan, Democrat of Manhattan, said today that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was quietly developing a manned planetary exploration mission that the nation could not afford.

Mr. Ryan, a member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, told a meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics that Congress was being kept in the dark as to the space agency's long-range goals and was not being consulted about the expenditure of national resources in space.

"NASA must lay its cards on the table," Mr. Ryan said.

He said there was clear evidence in the budget that the Apollo applications program was to be primarily a proving ground "for NASA's next designed spectacular, a manned Mars landing."

"At a probable cost of \$200-billion for a manned Mars mission, I do not believe that Congress should permit such a goal to be quietly built into the system," he said.

"NASA has been charting a course designed to lead us into a manned planetary mission. Congress should face this issue now before extensive commitments are made which may leave us virtually without choice."